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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Iguania, Liolaemidae, *Liolaemus goetschi* Müller and Hellmich, 1938: Distribution extension

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ABSTRACT: *Liolaemus goetschi* Müller and Hellmich, 1938 is a poorly known Patagonian lizard. Two specimens were collected in the central-western portion of Río Negro Province, Argentina, located 82 km west and 110 km south of the known distribution for the species in its type locality.

The genus *Liolaemus* is a particularly diverse group of iguanian lizards, with more than 200 species described to date, and other species waiting for description (Abdala and Lobo 2006; Abdala 2007; Pincheira-Donoso *et al.* 2007; Quinteros *et al.* 2008). Many of these species occur in a variety of habitats in Patagonia (Argentina) (Scolaro 2005; Abdala 2007; Morando *et al.* 2007). The knowledge of the geographic distribution of *Liolaemus* lizards is still very scarce. It is necessary to increase the information available on these lizards to improve our understanding of this large genus. Here we present new geographic distribution data on a poorly known Patagonian species, *Liolaemus goetschi* Müller and Hellmich 1938.

Whithin the *boulengeri* group, *Liolaemus goetschi* was described in 1938 by Müller and Hellmich on the basis of six specimens from Laguna Playa (province of Río Negro) stored at the Museum of Munich and Breslau. Unfortunately, this material is no longer available and the specimens could not be found by the curators of these collections. During a recent field trip to the central-western portion of Río Negro, we collected two specimens which were morphologically similar to the species described as *Liolaemus goetschi* (Figure 1). The individuals were collected by noose, euthanased with pericardic injection of *tiopental sódico* (Abbot®), fixed in 20 % formalin, and preserved in 70 % ethanol. Latitude, longitude, and elevation were determined with a Garmin™ GPS 12.

FIGURE 1. Dorsal view of adult male of Liolaemus goetschi from the new locality, town of Cerro Policia, departament of El Cuy, province of Río Negro, in the Patagonian mount region of Argentina

FIGURE 2. Geographic distribution of *Liolaemus goetschi* in the province of Rio Negro. Star = type-locality; closed circle = new locality.

The new site for *Liolaemus goetschi* is presented in Figure 2. It is situated 82 km west and 110 km south of the known distribution for the species (Laguna Playa, 20 km Northern of General Roca, Rio Negro, Argentina). Voucher specimens were deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museo Patagónico de Ciencias Naturales (MPCN-H: 0047-0048) housed in General Roca, Río Negro, Argentina.

Specimens were collected at the town of Cerro Policia, near the entrance to a private residence (39°43'40" S, 68°32'59" W, 640 m above sea level), department of El Cuy, province of Río Negro in the Patagonian mount region of Argentina, by J. Nori, M. J. Arellano, F. Fernadez, D. Fernandez, 5 January, 2008.

Vegetation is composed of shrubs (*Larrea divaricata*, *L. cuneifolia*, *L. nitida*, *Cercidiurn praecox*, *Atriplex lampa*), grasses (*Stipa humilis*, *Bromus brevis brevis*, *Psila spartoides*), and some trees (*Salix humboldtiana*, *Maytenus boariacan*). Lizards were located under vegetation, probably hunting insects.

To confirm the species identity we compared the specimens collected in the present study with those of *Liolaemus goetschi* from its type locality, deposited at the collections of the Museo Patagónico de Ciencias Naturales (MPCN) (MPCN 057–065) and Fundación Miguel Lillo (FML), (FML 21501-21505; 21504-21507; 21511) as well as with the original description (Müller and Hellmich 1938).

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